



# PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMIC AND CAREER/TECHNICAL TRAINING PROJECT (PACTT)



## Scope of the Problem

Delinquent youth returning from residential placements face immense challenges during the transition back to their community. The majority of these youth do not complete high school, making sustainable employment all the more difficult in today's economy. A recent study (Granello & Hanna, year) found that young people who drop out of high school and become involved with the criminal justice system cost the public an additional \$1.7 to \$2.3 million each over their lifetimes. For delinquent youth, the process of preparation to complete school and be job-ready must begin while they are in placement, and continue seamlessly when they return to the community.

## Project Description

The Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training Project (PACTT), capitalizing on the combined influence of Allegheny and Philadelphia Counties, strives to improve the academic and career and technical training that delinquent youth receive while in residential placement, and in their home communities upon return. The project's initial focus is on the residential facilities and transition programs in Allegheny and Philadelphia Counties, but then it will expand into other counties in the Commonwealth. In addition, the project will address and work to adapt juvenile-serving agencies' policies and procedures that can hinder delinquent youth transitions back into school and the community. The project has received initial funding from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Stoneleigh Foundation.

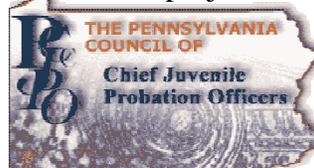
## Project Goals

- Residential academic programs align with state and local standards
- Residential facilities provide adequate career/technical training that integrates academic goals, and leads to industry-recognized certification
- Home schools accept the facility-earned credits and facilitate the re-entry of the youth
- Public schools and communities develop programs that build upon achievements made during placement
- State regulatory agencies (e.g. Pa Department of Education and Department of Public Welfare) adapt their policies and procedures to encourage the reforms statewide

## Project Implementation

- Project will function with three senior staff and an administrative assistant
- Education specialist will advance reforms in delinquent placement education, school re-entry and in the development of multiple pathways to graduation
- Career/Technical Training specialist will support improvements in career/technical training programs in facilities and communities
- Project Director will link the fields of juvenile justice, child welfare, education, and career/technical training in order to support the work of the project and promote its goals throughout the state and country

PACTT is a project of:



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